



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 652

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 45

Senate, April 26, 2004

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through SEN. DAILY of the 33rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Commissioners of
- 2 Mental Retardation and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
- 3 encourage the development of independent living opportunities for
- 4 low and moderate income nonelderly persons with mental disabilities
- 5 by making grants-in-aid, within available resources, to state-wide,
- 6 private, nonprofit housing development corporations which are
- 7 organized and operating for the purpose of expanding independent
- 8 living opportunities for such persons. Such grants-in-aid shall be used
- 9 to facilitate the development of small, noninstitutionalized living units
- 10 for such persons, through programs including, but not limited to,
- 11 preproject development, receipt of federal funds, site acquisition and
- 12 architectural review. For the purposes of this section, "nonelderly
- 13 persons with mental disabilities" means persons sixty-one years of age

14 or younger who have been certified by the Social Security Board as
15 being totally disabled under the federal Social Security Act or certified
16 by any other federal board or agency as being totally disabled.

17 (b) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
18 consultation with the Commissioner of Mental Retardation, shall adopt
19 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
20 general statutes, to carry out the purposes of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

FIN

Joint Favorable Subst.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Departments of Mental Health & Addiction Services and Mental Retardation	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires both the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Mental Retardation to encourage the development of independent living opportunities by making grant-in-aid, within available resources, to eligible organizations (in addition to adopting regulations to implement such program). The bill's requirement that these grant-in-aids are made within available resources, will likely result in one of four outcomes: 1) the departments will reallocate funding from other priorities, thereby impacting existing programs; 2) incur a deficiency in other program areas resulting from the reallocation of funding; 3) delay implementation pending approval of additional appropriations; or 4) be unable to implement the grant-in-aid program due to unavailable funding. Also, it is unclear if providing one-time grant-in-aid funding to the eligible recipients would lead to an expectation of a future service component and therefore impact the funding commitments for services supported by either department.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 45

AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the commissioners of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) to make grants within available resources to statewide private nonprofit housing development corporations that are organized and operate to expand independent living opportunities for nonelderly people with mental disabilities.

The bill requires the DMHAS' commissioner, in consultation with the DMR's commissioner, to adopt regulations for awarding the grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANTS

Nonprofit housing developers must use the grants to develop small, noninstitutional housing units for nonelderly people with mental disabilities. Permissible expenditures include (1) preproject development, (2) securing federal funds, (3) acquiring sites, and (4) architectural review.

The bill defines "nonelderly people with mental disabilities" as people age 61 or younger who the Social Security Board or any federal board or agency has certified as totally disabled.

BACKGROUND***Community Mental Health Strategic Investment Fund***

A 2001 act established the Community Mental Health Strategic Investment Fund as a source of assistance for clinical and nonclinical community mental health services, related mental health services, and supportive housing for people with mental illness, including offenders

supervised in the community by executive and judicial branch agencies and homeless people and their families. The fund is set up as a nonlapsing account in the General Fund and is administered by DMHAS. A strategy board develops strategic and financial plans to guide fund disbursements.

The act authorized \$10 million in state bonds for supportive housing. The budget included \$40 million in FY 2000-01 surplus funds to establish the fund, providing \$25 million for services and \$15 million for supportive housing (PA 01-8 (JSS) and SA 01-1 (JSS), effective July 1, 2001).

Related Bill

HB 5377 (File 293) requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to implement and administer new rental assistance program certificates and support services for nonelderly people with disabilities who are living in, or on the waiting list for, state-assisted elderly housing developments.

The DSS commissioner must seek funds for the cost of new certificates and services, to the extent possible, from federal reimbursement through targeted case management or any Medicaid eligible services.

Legislative History

On April 14, the Senate referred the original bill to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, which reported this substitute, eliminating the \$10 million bond authorization for the grant program on April 15.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 20 Nay 0

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 42 Nay 0